

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace paragraphs 16-17, on page 5, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

[0016] The medium must have an available carbohydrate content which is higher than that typical for culturing of fungi. By “available carbohydrate” is meant carbohydrate energy sources which are metabolizeable by the fungal culture. Typical components of these available carbohydrate include sucrose, glucose, other simple sugars and disaccharides. Typically, the medium will contain at least 10% wt/vol available carbohydrate, preferably 12% wt/vol, more preferably 13% wt/vol, and even more preferably 15% wt/vol. Alternatively, the final concentration in the medium results in a ~~[[BRIC]]~~ BRIX reading of at least 10, more preferably at least 12, most preferably at least 15. High concentrations of available carbohydrate are highly preferred and, as stated above, are limited only by the necessity to avoid generating unacceptable osmotic pressure conditions. Since fungi are able to digest cellulose, enhancing the carbohydrate levels in the form of cellulose, or other carbohydrate which does not enhance osmotic pressure, may preferably be used.

[0017] It appears that optimal ~~[[BRIC]]~~ BRIX values for the culture medium are in the range of 12-15. In one typical culture, ~~[[BRIC]]~~ BRIX values above 19, *e.g.*, 24 or 30, resulted in either very slow growth or no growth at all. At 19 ~~[[BRIC]]~~ BRIX, the mycelial covered the surface of the medium but in only a thin layer; at 11 ~~[[BRIC]]~~ BRIX and 8 ~~[[BRIC]]~~ BRIX a very good growth is achieved. However, at below 11 ~~[[BRIC]]~~ BRIX, the PGR content appeared to be less.